Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

ML 2022 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/21/2021

Proposal Title: MN Prairie Recovery Program Phase 12

Funds Requested: $10,100,000

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Neal Feeken
Title: Grassland Conservation Program Director
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Location Information

County Location(s): Yellow Medicine, Wilkin, Traverse, Swift, Stearns, Roseau, Rock, Red Lake, Pope, Polk, Pipestone, Pennington, Norman, Nobles, Murray, Mahnomen, Lyon, Lincoln, Lac qui Parle, Kittson, Kandiyohi, Cottonwood, Clay, Chippewa, Big Stone and Becker.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

The project will advance the protection, restoration and enhancement goals for prairie, grassland and wetland habitats as described in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan. It builds upon the highly successful model previously established in prior Prairie Recovery Phases and seeks to protect 1,250 acres in Fee without PILT obligations to be held by The Nature Conservancy, enhance 40,000 acres of permanently protected grasslands, and restore 500 acres of prairie and wetland habitat. Protection and restoration projects will contribute toward state climate goals by sequestering approximately 165,000 metric tons CO2 equivalent.

Design and Scope of Work

Protect - An estimated 1,250 acres of prairie, wetlands, grasslands, and savanna will be permanently protected through fee-title acquisition from willing sellers in priority prairie core/corridor landscapes as identified in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Acquired lands will be prioritized using LSOHC approved criteria that include: percentage of native prairie on the parcel, proximity to other permanently protected areas, quality of habitat and species diversity, and suitability for public recreation. Protected acres without PILT will be held by The Nature Conservancy subject to a recorded notice of funding restrictions.

Enhance - An estimated 40,000 acres of grassland/wetland complex will be enhanced on permanently protected lands, including lands purchased with OHF funds and held by the Conservancy, MN DNR Management Units, US Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and private lands subject to perpetual conservation easements. The primary objectives of the enhancement activities will be to increase native species diversity and improve critical wildlife habitat. A variety of practices and techniques will be implemented to accomplish the objectives such as: prescribed fire; removal of trees and woody species; invasive species control including mechanical, biological, and chemical control; over-seeding degraded grasslands with native seed; and conservation grazing, mowing, or haying. The work will be conducted primarily through contracts with local vendors, Conservation Corps of Minnesota or Student Conservation Association crews and by using Nature Conservancy seasonal and permanent staff. Prairie Recovery Biologists, stationed in four landscapes within the Prairie region are responsible for identifying and prioritizing projects in cooperation with agency partners; selecting and overseeing contracted work; and leading and directing seasonal staff. The Biologists are also responsible for participating in and leading Prairie Plan Local Technical Team efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery by multiple partners at the landscape scale.

Restore - Approximately 500 acres of cropland will be restored to diverse local-ecotype grassland and grassland/wetland complexes. Practices to be implemented include those listed as enhancements above and the restoration of original wetland hydrology.

Results to date - Through previous Phases of the Prairie Recovery Program we have protected 7,590 acres of prairies, wetlands, and grasslands, enhanced more than 150,000 acres of permanently protected grasslands and restored approximately 1,800 acres with locally-sourced native seed. All parcels protected were directly adjacent to, or contributed to, the functional integrity of existing habitat complexes. Average per acre cost for acquired properties has averaged around $2,000 per acre. Our enhancement projects have focused on accelerating the implementation of prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal, building the infrastructure for conservation grazing systems and treatment of invasive species. Costs for enhancement and restoration work vary depending on the practices being implemented but have averaged around $120 per acre.

Collectively these projects have captured approximately 723,000 metric tons CO2 equivalent and will continue to hold that carbon in prairie soils perpetually.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

Temperate grasslands are the most endangered and least protected habitat type on earth, and Minnesota's prairies are no exception. Activities identified in this project directly reflect implementation strategies identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Properties targeted for acquisition are identified and prioritized using MN County Biological Survey Rare Element Occurrences and Biodiversity Significance. The geographies we work within, in addition to being Prairie Plan Core areas, reflect areas with the highest density and highest quality remaining prairie systems left in the state. By focusing our work in these particular landscapes we increase the functionality of the overall prairie/grassland systems, including increasing water retention, improving breeding and nesting habitat and augmenting migratory corridors. While our work focuses on increasing and maintaining system functionality a number of individual species and suites of SPGCN will directly benefit from this project including:

Insects - habitat management and protection specifically for the federally-threatened Dakota skipper butterfly, potential restoration of habitat for the endangered Poweshiek skipperling and the declining regal fritillary butterflies

Mammals - American badger (an indicator species requiring intact blocks of quality habitat), elk (for herd management in NW MN)

Reptiles - hognose snake (primarily in western MN counties of Lac qui Parle, Big Stone and Yellow Medicine), 5-lined skink (rock outcroppings in the upper MN River Valley)

Birds - Grassland dependent birds have experienced precipitous population decline across Minnesota and the northern Great Plains, largely due to habitat loss on the breeding grounds. This project will provide permanently protected and enhanced habitat for a suite of grassland and wetland nesting birds, most notably the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, Upland sandpiper, Black tern, Northern pintail, Greater Prairie-chicken, Sharp-tail grouse, and many others.

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible?

Less than 2% of Minnesota's original prairies remain and of these only about half are currently protected. The rest remain at risk for conversion to other uses such as row-crop production, gravel mining, and urban development. It is imperative that we permanently protect all the remaining native prairie as quickly as we can. The MN Prairie Conservation Plan sets an ambitious goal of protecting all of our remaining native prairies and annually enhancing significant acres of grassland habitat over the next 20 years. This project represents one tool designed to help the conservation community meet these goals. The enhancement component of the project greatly accelerates habitat improvement on public lands by bringing additional resources to bear, allowing for the treatment of rapidly expanding invasive species, developing infrastructure that facilitates future management using either conservation grazing or prescribed fire, and building a private vendor industry to accomplish enhancement work.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The project focuses activities on core/corridor complexes as described in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. The Prairie plan was developed using the best available information for identifying the highest quality/highest density remaining prairie and grassland complexes in the state and is periodically revisited for accuracy and relevance by a core team of State, Federal and NGO prairie biologists.
Individual parcels are prioritized using the attached criteria. Important considerations include % of native prairie on tract; adjacency to other native prairie; proximity to other protected lands; and uniqueness and diversity of species present. MN County Biological Survey data and biodiversity rankings are key tools used to measure these criteria.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this proposal?

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

By focusing our protection work in core/corridor areas identified in the Prairie Plan, this project will advance the goal of targeting conservation dollars to restore functional grassland landscapes at functional scales throughout the Prairie region of western Minnesota. The project will also accelerate the indicators for enhancement/restoration outlined in the plan including: increasing native plant diversity condition and cover; stable or decreasing cover of invasive woody vegetation; and supporting diverse populations of native birds and insects. Further, the project will result in decreased coverage of invasive species and increased cover dominated by native plants. Collectively these actions will provide increased acreage and quality of habitat for the prairie obligate species called out in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Forest / Prairie Transition

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Prairie

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

The Nature Conservancy has been actively protecting and managing prairies in Minnesota for more than 60 years. Funds available through this program provide critical resources for protecting the approximately less than 2% of currently unprotected native prairie remaining in the state. Given the continued pressure to convert prairie lands it is imperative that willing sellers of native prairie be given the opportunity to protect these increasingly rare systems. The Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program represents one of the best tools the Conservancy has to afford

such protection. Further, many of the lands in public ownership are in need of intensive management to ensure healthy grassland systems. Investment in removing woody species, controlling invasive species and restoring prescribed fire regimes is akin to infrastructure development in that upfront costs are high but ongoing maintenance becomes more sustainable once those investments have been made. This project, and others that support the goals of the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, are critical to ensuring the long-term health and viability of Minnesota's prairie landscapes.

What other fund may contribute to this proposal?

- Other

Does this proposal include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

We are leveraging state funds with private funds by depositing private donations amounting to 20% of the value of fee-title without PILT obligation acquisitions in a permanent stewardship account that guarantees our ability to maintain acquired properties over time. Further, we track any revenues generated from the properties in the form of lease or CRP payments in a separate restricted account that is used to pay property taxes or management costs on the acquired parcels. This account generates less than 50% of our annual property tax obligation, with the remaining taxes paid by the Conservancy using other private funds.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

All protection, enhancement and restoration work utilizing OHF allocations is supplemental to core work historically done by the Conservancy. OHF dollars allow us to increase the pace and scale of protection, restoration, and enhancement of native prairies and critical grasslands identified as priorities in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2010	TNC Private Contributions	1,228,100
2011	TNC Private Contributions	1,427,700
2014	TNC Private Contributions	467,400
2013	TNC Private Contributions	1,119,900
2012	TNC Private Contributions	851,000
2015	TNC Private Contributions	173,800
2017	TNC Private Contributions	229,900
2018	TNC Private Contributions	198,865

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

Protection, restoration, and enhancement are all critical tools for the long-term viability of Minnesota's prairie/wetland systems. The prairie pothole landscape can only be sustained through the regular application of disturbance, including fire, grazing and haying. A primary purpose of this proposal is to continue a highly successful collaborative and coordinated partnership that accelerates the use of these practices across multiple landscapes. In many cases requested funds will develop infrastructure and enable completion of one-time large expenses such as woody species removal and installation of fencing for conservation grazing. Once the initial activities are completed we expect long-term maintenance costs to moderate. The Nature Conservancy will continue to seek mechanisms that derive revenue from grazing, haying and seed production consistent with our conservation goals. All resulting income will be placed in a dedicated account for future property tax payments and

management of properties acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our past efforts show that revenue generation is insufficient to pay for all associated expenses, therefore we plan to seek future funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund along with private contributions for long-term stewardship needs.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Once every 4-5 years	OHF, TNC private funds	Prescribed Fire	-	-
Annually	OHF/TNC private funds	Invasive search/treatment	-	-
As appropriate	OHF/TNC private funds, lease payments	Conservation grazing	-	-

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

To maintain consistency with our Prairie Plan partners we will use the five indicator species/metrics identified by MNDNR to represent the prairie/grassland habitats: pheasant, prairie chicken, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, and monarch butterfly.

Pheasant
By looking at the ratios of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest, we estimate that every three acres of grassland habitat has
the potential to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

Greater Prairie Chicken
According to the literature and professional observations in Minnesota, prairie chickens require a minimum of 320 acres of high quality
grasslands with no areas hostile to grassland wildlife (woodlots, farmsteads, etc) near these grasslands. For every 320 acre patch of high
quality grassland in the prairie chicken range in the northwest part of the state, we expect there to be a lek, or booming ground.
The average size of booming grounds in Minnesota is roughly 11 males.

Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow
The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin.
If all of the habitat was occupied, 100 acres of habitat could hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Monarch Butterfly
Research from the University MN shows that it takes approximately 30 milkweed plants to result in one monarch butterfly
contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of
restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:

In addition to the on-the-ground conservation benefits afforded by the work described above, the MN Prairie Recovery Program, through a robust seasonal employee hiring program, serves as a vehicle for training the next

generation of conservation professionals. Our seasonal staff is largely comprised of young and aspiring conservationists looking to gain practical hands-on experience, either through short-term summer, or longer-term "1st job in the field", employment. Our recruitment practices are rooted in our Mission and guided by our Values, which includes a Commitment to Diversity and Respect for People, Communities, and Cultures. We know we'll only achieve our Mission by hiring and engaging a diverse workforce that reflects the communities in which we work. Hiring Teams must follow TNC's inclusive hiring practices for all positions. This includes: 1) reviewing position descriptions to ensure language is inclusive, non-gendered and only includes requirements necessary for the job. 2) advertising job openings widely, posting via the Professional Diversity Network among others, and for adequate duration to attract a diverse candidate pool 3) Extending the posting period or reopening a closed position in order to conduct additional outreach should candidate pools lack diversity. 4) Ensuring each interview is conducted with consistent conditions and questions. 5) Ensuring interview panels are diverse and gender balanced appropriately. All panelists receive training to avoid unconscious bias. We are beginning to see more diverse candidate pools resulting in a subsequent diversification of our workforce.
Further, the landscapes where the Prairie Recovery work occurs are in relative proximity to a number of cities with significant BIPOC communities (St. Cloud, Wilmar, Morris, Fargo/Moorhead). BIPOC and diverse communities experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands, meaning open and accessible public lands are even more crucial for recruiting and retaining a diverse next generation of hunters, anglers, nature photographers, writers, artists and nature enthusiasts. Work proposed through the MN Prairie Recovery Program will add to the quantity and quality of public lands available to all Minnesotans, including BIPOC and diverse communities.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?
Yes

Will county board or other local government approval <u>be formally sought</u> prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
We will follow the county/township board notification processes as directed by current statutory language.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- WMA
- WPA
- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- Refuge Lands

- Other : TNC owned lands purchased with OHF dollars

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?
Yes

Explain what will be planted:
Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted Best Practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example short-term use of soybeans or other commercial crops can be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank. Neonicitinoide treated seed will not be used. We would not expect agricultural crop use to exceed 3 years on any given OHF acquired property. We continue to explore the viability of alternative restoration techniques to minimize the need to farm restoration sites, including expanded use of cover crops.

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
No variation anticipated

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?
No

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposal's funding and availability?
Yes

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC?
Yes

Approp Year	Approp Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Leverage Reported in AP	Leverage Realized to Date	Acres Affected in AP	Acres Affected to Date	Complete/Final Report Approved?
2020	$3,365,000	$2,500	$539,200	-	14,350	0	No
2019	$3,058,000	$5,500	$421,200	$600	14,600	0	No
2018	$2,001,000	$1,262,200	$280,600	$198,900	12,950	8,500	No
2017	$1,901,000	$1,900,962	$211,600	$229,900	7,900	10,500	No
2015	$4,032,000	$3,999,200	$282,300	$173,800	6,700	25,481	No
2014	$3,940,000	$4,032,000	$459,200	$467,400	6,050	20,233	Yes
2013	$5,310,000	$5,310,000	$810,500	$1,119,900	9,250	39,714	Yes
2012	$4,610,000	$4,607,900	$748,500	$851,000	7,450	23,833	Yes
2011	$4,500,100	$4,499,500	$1,613,800	$1,427,700	7,450	16,552	Yes
2010	$3,653,000	$3,653,000	-	$1,228,100	9,250	22,133	Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
500 acres restored to native prairie/wetland	June 2027
250 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT	June 2025
500 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT	June 2025
500 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT	June 2026
15,000 acres enhanced	June 2025
15,000 acres enhanced	June 2024
10,000 acres enhanced	June 2027

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$1,957,100	-	-	$1,957,100
Contracts	$3,200,000	-	-	$3,200,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$3,500,000	$700,000	TNC	$4,200,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$151,800	-	-	$151,800
Professional Services	$220,000	-	-	$220,000
Direct Support Services	$460,800	-	-	$460,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$161,600	-	-	$161,600
Supplies/Materials	$348,700	-	-	$348,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$10,100,000**	**$700,000**	**-**	**$10,800,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Science Staff	0.075	2.0	$40,800	-	-	$40,800
Project Management	0.6	2.0	$131,500	-	-	$131,500
Grant Administration	0.12	2.0	$28,600	-	-	$28,600
Habitat Crews	8.0	2.0	$848,200	-	-	$848,200
Protection Specialist	1.25	2.0	$243,500	-	-	$243,500
Prairie Recovery Biologists	4.0	2.0	$664,500	-	-	$664,500

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Replacement UTV w/tracks	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Replacement UTV w/tracks	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Replacement ATV w/utility trailer	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Replacement ATV w/utility trailer	$15,000	-	-	$15,000

Amount of Request: $10,100,000
Amount of Leverage: $700,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 6.93%
DSS + Personnel: $2,417,900

As a % of the total request: 23.94%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:
The leverage offered represents private contributions equal to 20% of acquisition costs for Fee w/out PILT acquisitions. The funds will be placed in an endowment helping to ensuring long-term management and property tax obligations are met.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Reduced funding would be reflected proportionally across line-item budget categories. We would anticipate delivering roughly 30% less acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Reduced funding would result in decreased hiring of a full complement of short term seasonal crews. To ensure consistency in programmatic delivery full-time staff including project management and PR Biologists would be kept at approximately the same levels as in a full-funding model. DSS would remain at 7.5%.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Reduced funding would be reflected proportionally across line-item budget categories. We would anticipate delivering roughly 50% less acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Reduced funding would result in decreased hiring of a full complement of short term seasonal crews. To ensure consistency in programmatic delivery full-time staff including project management and PR Biologists would be kept at approximately the same levels as in a full-funding model. DSS would remain at 7.5%.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?
Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?
Phase 12 is a component of the larger MN Prairie Recovery Program. Continuity of funding across multiple Phases allows us flexibility when prioritizing parcels for protection or enhancement. Further, it ensures stability in our staffing model and provides the ability to plan and prioritize projects over multiple years. The flexibility provided by stable funding is critically important to achieving conservation goals given the uncertainty and variability of field season weather conditions.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The entire contract line item is dedicated to enhancement and restoration work. Typical contractors include private vendors and

Conservation Corps of MN/IA.

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
Anticipated 8 Fee w/out PILT projects. Final number of transactions will vary depending on size of individual acquisition parcels, physical location within the state and corresponding land costs.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
Travel line item includes funds for short term vehicle rentals, primarily for Project coordinator and Protection Specialists.

Long term truck lease costs for the Prairie Recovery Biologists are reflected in the Other Equipment line item

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:
Yes

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents less than one-third of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools run the gamut of necessary field supplies ranging from power tools to hand tools. Examples may include chain saws, brush saws, personal protection equipment for prescribed fire, and fencing/watering materials for conservation grazing. The equipment line item also includes herbicide and related application equipment, which are important tools for controlling invasive and noxious weeds in grasslands.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?
No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	200	300	0	0	500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	300	950	0	0	1,250
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	10,000	30,000	0	0	40,000
Total	**10,500**	**31,250**	**0**	**0**	**41,750**

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	750
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	25,000
Total	**25,750**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$200,000	$300,000	-	-	$500,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$560,000	$2,940,000	-	-	$3,500,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$830,600	$5,269,400	-	-	$6,100,000
Total	**$1,590,600**	**$8,509,400**	**-**	**-**	**$10,100,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	250	0	250	0	500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	625	0	625	0	1,250
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	40,000
Total	**0**	**20,875**	**0**	**20,875**	**0**	**41,750**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$250,000	-	$250,000	-	$500,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$1,750,000	-	$1,750,000	-	$3,500,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$3,050,000	-	$3,050,000	-	$6,100,000
Total	**-**	**$5,050,000**	**-**	**$5,050,000**	**-**	**$10,100,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$1,000	$1,000	-	-

Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,866	$3,094	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$83	$175	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$1,000	-	$1,000	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$2,800	-	$2,800	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$152	-	$152	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography.*

  Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network.

Programs in prairie region:

- Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography.*

  Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network.

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcel selection for Protection projects without PILT obligations are prioritized according to the goals found within the MN Prairie Plan and specifically using the attached criteria. Parcels that the Conservancy will own and manage are located within core portfolio sites. Enhancement parcels consist of permanently protected grasslands primarily, USFWS WPAs and MN DNR WMAs, and are selected for funding in close consultation with the partner responsible for ultimate management. Parcels proposed on the parcel list do not reflect actual parcels, rather are illustrative of the areas in which our work is to be conducted. Maintaining anonymity of parcels is an important consideration for the organization in order to protect landowner privacy rights and to maintain the integrity of good faith negotiations. All actual protection parcels will be submitted to the LSOHC for approval prior to acquiring through an Accomplishment Plan amendment request. All completed restoration and enhancement projects will be reported to the Council on the Status Updates and the Final Report.

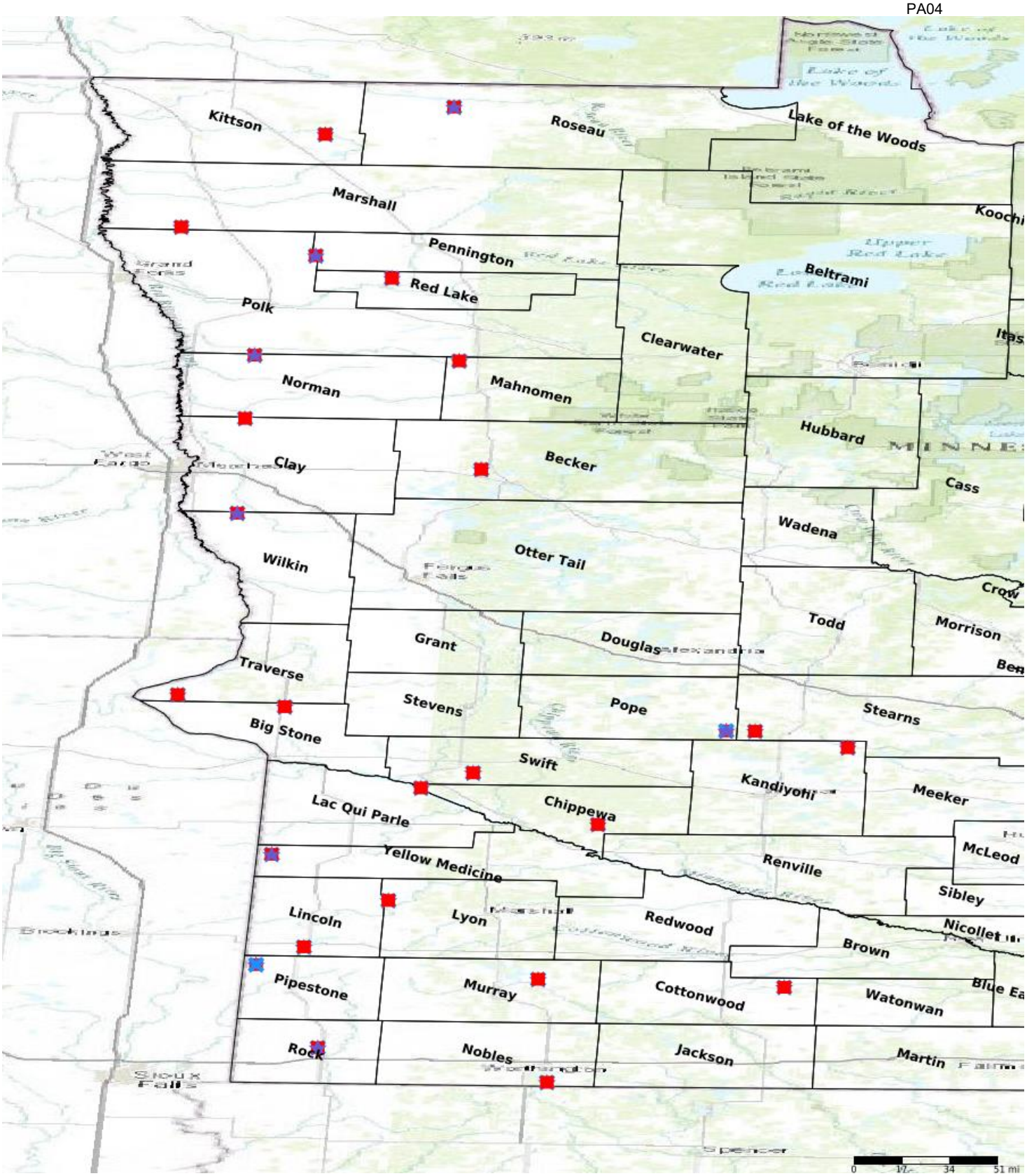
Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
NA	Becker	13942201	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Becker	13942201	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Big Stone	12446210	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Big Stone	12446210	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Chippewa	11739213	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Chippewa	11739213	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Clay	14247204	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Clay	14247204	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Cottonwood	10734220	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Cottonwood	10734220	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Kandiyohi	12233215	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Kandiyohi	12233215	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Kittson	16045206	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Kittson	16045206	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lac qui Parle	11943211	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lac qui Parle	11943211	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lincoln	10945217	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lincoln	10945217	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lyon	11243218	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Lyon	11243218	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Mahnomen	14642208	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Mahnomen	14642208	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Murray	10740210	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Murray	10740210	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Nobles	10140225	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Nobles	10140225	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Norman	14647203	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Norman	14647203	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Pennington	15345230	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Pennington	15345230	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Pipestone	10846219	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Pipestone	10846219	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Polk	15449201	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Polk	15449201	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Pope	12336214	99	$1,000	Yes

NA	Pope	12336214	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Red Lake	15144202	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Red Lake	15144202	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Rock	10345227	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Rock	10345227	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Roseau	16242207	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Roseau	16242207	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Stearns	12335216	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Stearns	12335216	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Swift	12042212	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Swift	12042212	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Traverse	12548220	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Traverse	12548220	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Wilkin	13647205	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Wilkin	13647205	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	99	$1,000	Yes

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
NA	Becker	13942201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Big Stone	12446210	99	$1,000	No
NA	Chippewa	11739213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Clay	14247204	99	$1,000	No
NA	Cottonwood	10734220	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kandiyohi	12233215	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kittson	16045206	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lac qui Parle	11943211	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lincoln	10945217	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lyon	11243218	99	$1,000	No
NA	Mahnomen	14642208	99	$1,000	No
NA	Murray	10740210	99	$1,000	No
NA	Nobles	10140225	99	$1,000	No
NA	Norman	14647203	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pennington	15345230	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pipestone	10846219	99	$1,000	No
NA	Polk	15449201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pope	12336214	99	$1,000	No
NA	Red Lake	15144202	99	$1,000	No
NA	Rock	10345227	99	$1,000	No
NA	Roseau	16242207	99	$1,000	No
NA	Stearns	12335216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Swift	12042212	99	$1,000	No
NA	Traverse	12548220	99	$1,000	No
NA	Wilkin	13647205	99	$1,000	No
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	99	$1,000	No



- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other

Parcel Map
MN Prairie Recovery Program Phase 12
(Data Generated From Parcel List)

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Tallgrass Aspen Parklands

Agassiz Beach Ridges

Upper MN River Valley

Glacial Lakes

MN Prairie Recovery Project

Phase 12

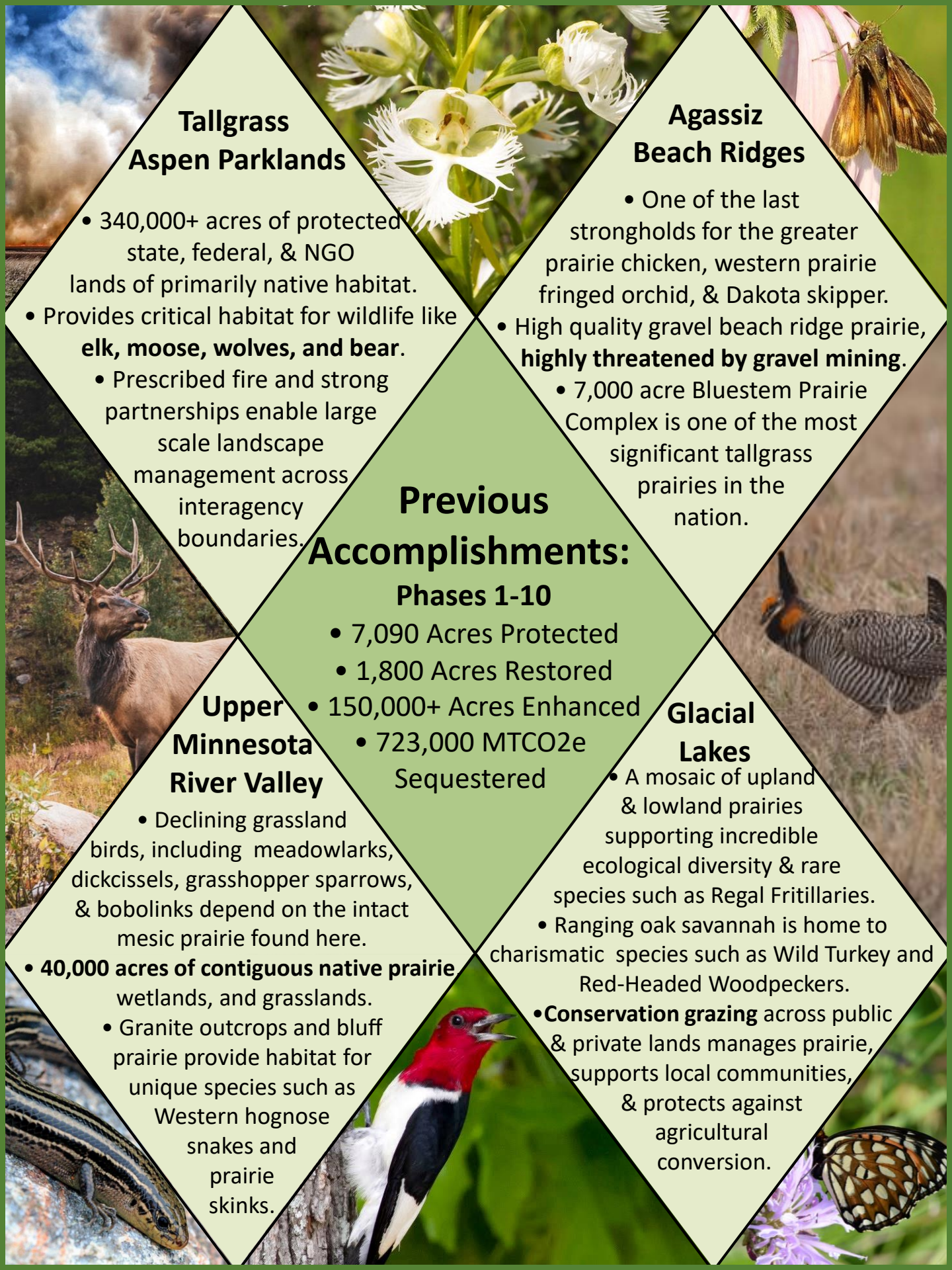
Funds Requested: $10,100,00

Proposed Accomplishments:

- **Protect** 1,250 Acres
- **Restore** 500 Acres
- **Enhance** 40,000 Acres
- **Sequester** 165,000 MTCO2e

Advancing the **Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement** of prairie habitat within prairie core and corridor landscapes.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT



Tallgrass Aspen Parklands

- 340,000+ acres of protected state, federal, & NGO lands of primarily native habitat.
- Provides critical habitat for wildlife like **elk, moose, wolves, and bear**.
- Prescribed fire and strong partnerships enable large scale landscape management across interagency boundaries.

Agassiz Beach Ridges

- One of the last strongholds for the greater prairie chicken, western prairie fringed orchid, & Dakota skipper.
- High quality gravel beach ridge prairie, **highly threatened by gravel mining**.
- 7,000 acre Bluestem Prairie Complex is one of the most significant tallgrass prairies in the nation.

Previous Accomplishments:

Phases 1-10

- 7,090 Acres Protected
- 1,800 Acres Restored
- 150,000+ Acres Enhanced
- 723,000 MTCO2e Sequestered

Upper Minnesota River Valley

- Declining grassland birds, including meadowlarks, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows, & bobolinks depend on the intact mesic prairie found here.
- **40,000 acres of contiguous native prairie**, wetlands, and grasslands.
- Granite outcrops and bluff prairie provide habitat for unique species such as Western hognose snakes and prairie skinks.

Glacial Lakes

- A mosaic of upland & lowland prairies supporting incredible ecological diversity & rare species such as Regal Fritillaries.
- Ranging oak savannah is home to charismatic species such as Wild Turkey and Red-Headed Woodpeckers.
- **Conservation grazing** across public & private lands manages prairie, supports local communities, & protects against agricultural conversion.